

ABSTRACT

A system and method for mass distribution of data products, such as geographic databases. An authorization server maintains a first portion of each of several data products, and each of several data distribution terminals maintains the second portion of each data product. A user may couple a portable data storage device with a data distribution terminal and select a desired data product. The terminal may then responsively obtain from the authorization server the first portion of the selected data product and record onto the data storage device both the first portion and second portion of the data product. The user may then couple the data storage device with a machine, such as a navigation system, which may then access the data product. The authorization server may secure the first portion before sending it to the data distribution terminal. The authorization server may do so by encrypting the first portion and tying the first portion together with an authorization key. The machine may then use the authorization key to validate and/or facilitate access to the first portion and in turn to the data product as a whole.